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The Voice of the University of Toronto at Mississauga

THE MEDIUM

VOLUME 27 ISSUE 8 — October 30, 2000

Botched ECSU event

BY ADAM GILES

What's your beef? The Erindale College Student Union (ECSU) event, a means for students to express their concerns about UTM issues, was poorly organized and eventually cancelled. The event, which invites students to grill a panel of UTM administrators and student leaders, was originally planned for October 19.

Fred Amirhoushmand, ECSU Student Centre Programmer – who was responsible for organizing 'What's Your Beef?' – didn't advertise it properly, cancel it properly, or invite guests properly and he may face a penalty from ECSU.

"It will be revisited at our next board meeting. I don't know enough about what happened but I can't see there being an excuse for it not happening if it was well planned," said ECSU President Preena Chauhan.

"We will definitely see if something needs to be done. We may supervise [Amirhoushmand's] future tasks. There is obviously a problem."

Chauhan said that ECSU hopes to hold 'What's Your Beef?' after they hold by-elections to replace elected Advertising Director Kelly Gilbert and College Affairs Commissioner Peter Shams, who both resigned earlier this year.

"We may designate the organization of the event to someone else. We may assign it to the College Affairs Commissioner after our by-election. I want it to be a success. I don't think it's a difficult event to plan," she said.

"I expect everyone on the council to be able to work on tasks independently and to ask for help if they need it. I don't know exactly what happened but things were obviously mis-communicated. There is a lot of confusion."

Everyone agrees that the event was not well advertised.

"I don't think it was advertised properly. We don't have an Advertising Director. All of ECSU had to take care of it – it was everyone's responsibility," said Amirhoushmand.

ECSU Vice President of Finance Rose Oliveira said that the event was Amirhoushmand's responsibility, that it was poorly advertised, and that he should have approached other ECSU members for help.

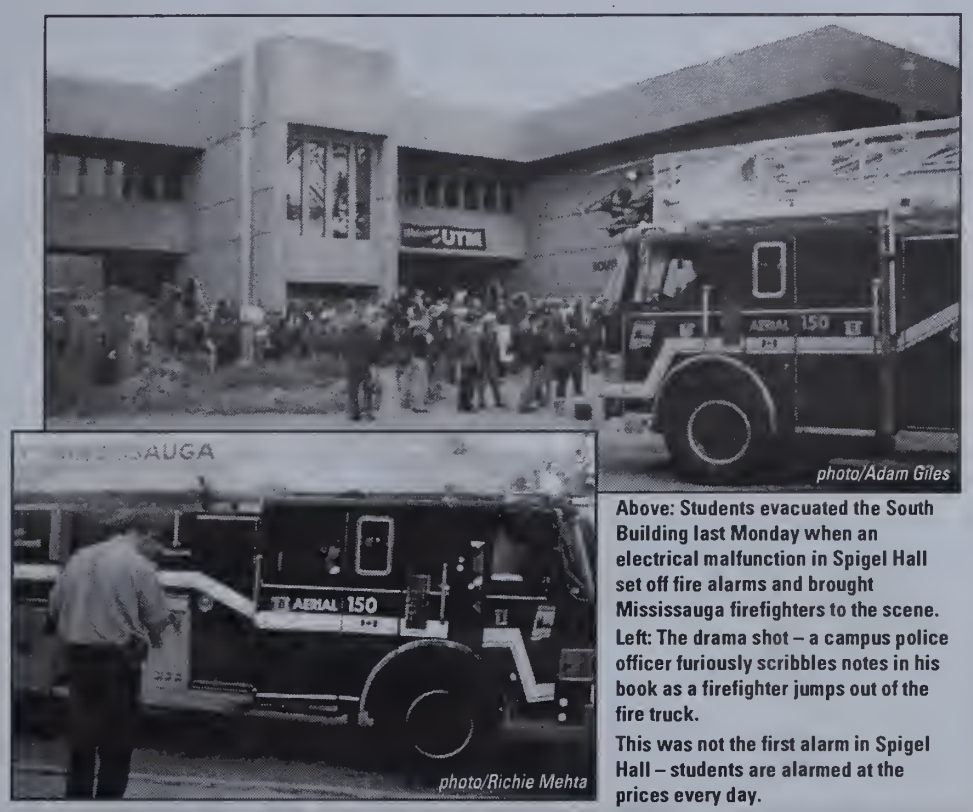
"['What's Your Beef?'] is a Student Centre Programmer event. If he needed help with advertising, he could have asked the rest of the council. We have each been doing our own advertising because we're working without an advertising director," she said.

Chauhan said even she didn't find out that the event would be held at 2:30 p.m. on October 19 until a few days before.

"I didn't find out about it until the last

SC Programmer continued on page 3

Alarm in Spigel...again



photo/Adam Giles

photo/Richie Mehta

Above: Students evacuated the South Building last Monday when an electrical malfunction in Spigel Hall set off fire alarms and brought Mississauga firefighters to the scene.

Left: The drama shot – a campus police officer furiously scribbles notes in his book as a firefighter jumps out of the fire truck.

This was not the first alarm in Spigel Hall – students are alarmed at the prices every day.

New buildings to house students, books, athletics facilities

Part Three: Building projects

Next Week: The fate of existing buildings

BY ADAM GILES

If the University of Toronto at Mississauga (UTM) wants to accept an increased number of students in the 2003-2004 school year, it will have to add more than just the Communication, Culture and Information Technology (CCIT) building. The UTM Master Plan outlines the need for several new buildings to accommodate the double cohort.

The Master Plan proposes the construction of the Phase Seven residence building, a new library building, a science wing connected to the South Building, an athletics complex, and a new theatre building. The Master Plan considers three models for UTM's campus expansion: 50 per cent growth, 75 per cent growth, and 100 per cent growth. Principal Robert McNutt said that because of a discrepancy between the provincial government and Ontario universities about the predicted increase in students after 2003, UTM is working with the 50 per cent growth model.

"The problem is that the government thinks the growth in Ontario's student pool is not going to be as large as Ontario universities claim it will be. If the government thought growth would be higher, they would make more money available to Ontario universities. But since the government thinks growth will be smaller, it's more reasonable for us to argue for 50 per cent growth. But if the universities prove to be right and the government proves to be wrong, then we'll be looking to grow even larger down the road," said McNutt.

McNutt said that all of the proposed buildings are equally important because they are all needed to handle a growth of 50 per cent.

"We now have to convince the government that all of these buildings are necessary because we can't increase enrollment at this campus just with the buildings we have. It's a matter of which one we can get money for first," he said.

"If the provincial government ran this funding out of the SuperBuild, we would be eligible to apply for money for the library and the science building because they're academic buildings. To my understanding, the government doesn't fund residences, student centres, or athletics complexes. I think they should change that, but that's the way they are now."

McNutt said that it would be impossible to build all these new buildings in time for the double cohort in September 2003.

"The bulk of the growth is supposed to occur by about 2005-2006, and then it flattens off, and then grows again around 2010-2011. So, I'd say we're looking to have all of these buildings completed between 2004-2006 – depending on funding of course," he said.

Phase Seven Residence

Aside from the CCIT building, Phase Seven is the only building with a user committee – the user committee identifies specifics of the building such as amenities, how space should be used, and costs. According to the Phase Seven Users' Committee's report, which was approved by the Planning and Budget Committee last week, the new residence will cost approximately $14 million.

Mike Lavalle, Director of UTM Residence, said that Phase Seven, which will be constructed from Colman House to the site of the old pub building, will be modeled after Phase Six in design but it will cost about $5 million more because of an increase in construction costs.

"Phase Seven will probably be two blocks of apartment-style rooms. There won't be a big lobby because Phase Six will still contain the offices," he said.

According to the users' committee's report, Phase Seven will stand three to five storeys tall and house approximately 200 beds in suites that will likely have four bedrooms and two bathrooms.

The report says that by adding about 200 beds, UTM would be closer to its target of having residence beds for about 22 per cent of the number of enrolled full time equivalent students (FTEs).

"The 22 per cent is a stated University of Toronto goal. It's not cast in stone. We like to have roughly 20 per cent of our students living in residence for two reasons: I think on campus life is desirable for many students, and it's affordable housing," said McNutt.

Lavalle, who was a member of the Phase Seven Users' Committee, said that in constructing Phase Seven, the goal was to create a residence community with the other phases.

"What we're hoping for is a residence village. With Phase Six, Phase Two, Colman House, and now Phase Seven everything kind of circles around the Student Centre," he said.

UTM continued on page 2

What's Inside

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I don't think it was advertised properly...it was everyone's responsibility."

– Fred Amirhoushmand states the obvious and then forgets that 'What's Your Beef' was his job.

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PRIZES + GIVEAWAYS | DJ@9PM

UTM to expand with Phase Seven, library, athletics complex

Continued from front

"You can service the residences better when they're in a village as opposed to a mixed environment," McNutt added.

McNutt said that first-year students will probably occupy Phase Seven.

"By having first-year students in Phase Seven, we would be able to house most, if not all, of our first year students in Phase Six and Phase Seven," he said.

Although funding for operating costs of residence buildings comes from the rent paid by students, UTM still needs money to construct Phase Seven.

"We'll work on an internal loan from the university to fund the initial cost of constructing Phase Seven or we'll take out a mortgage. But because construction costs have gone up so high, there's some concern that the rent we'd have to charge to break even would be too high for the students. So the university is subsidizing with an input in the first four to five years after it's built, which will help keep the level of rent down to a reasonable price," said McNutt.

The other building projects

Since no other proposed building has a users' committee in place, their specifics are still largely unknown – the UTM Master Plan does provide an overview for each building though. The Master Plan proposes a Main Link, which would perpendicularly intersect with the Five Minute Walk beside the Student Centre and connect to the CCIT and library buildings that will be constructed overtop of parking lot three.

"The idea is to have the Main link indoors and make the Student Centre the main entranceway of the campus," said McNutt.

McNutt said that the library, which currently exists in the South Building, "would simply become too small in it's present location and if we had 50 per cent growth, it would be too hard to expand it in that location."

According to McNutt, UTM has needed to expand its physical education facilities for 20 years but he said it will hard to find money to pay for a new athletics complex.

"Since the government will not fund our athletics building, we will have to work something out through a combination of appealing for private donations, appealing to the University of Toronto to support it, talking to the students about a student levy, and bringing in outside community groups. We could take out a mortgage and build it, but then we have to figure out how to finance the mortgage," he said.

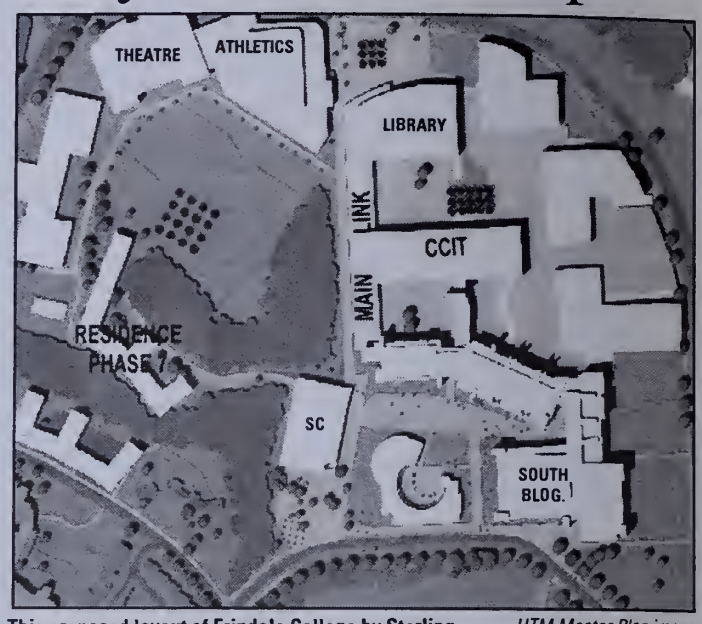
McNutt said there are pros and cons for both building the athletics complex independently and building it with partners in the community.

"A con to total ownership is that you'd have the whole responsibility of raising the money for it and maintaining the operating budget. The pro is that you're in control – it's yours," he said.

"The pros to joint ownership are that you have shared funding ventures and more people worrying about making it operate. The con is that you're a partner and sometimes partnerships can take more work to make sure that both sides are getting what they want – particularly the hours of the day."

The Master Plan proposes a science wing, which would house the extra research-professors that need to be hired. McNutt said the science wing will provide additional research space, teaching space, and office space.

"If we decide to build the science wing out that end of the building, it could be merged in with the new Biotech extension that's being added to the South Building right now. But we haven't decided that yet," he said.



This proposed layout of Erindale College by Sterling Finlayson Architects sees the Main Link joined to the South Building and connected to the CCIT building and the new library (both overtop of parking lot three). *UTM Master Plan image*

The other new building proposed in the Master Plan is the theatre. The Master Plan says, "The theatre and drama program contributes greatly to the cultural life of the campus and…is largely housed in 'temporary,' converted, or portable buildings."

McNutt said, "We would really like to have a decent theatre auditorium on this campus."

ECC seats still unclaimed

By Maryam Sadeghi

Five weeks into the school year, Erindale College Council (ECC) has realized that they lack student involvement. ECC is the governing body at UTM, having such main duties as developing policies regarding academic affairs and making recommendations to the Principal of the College on matters of concern to the Council.

ECC is composed of members from all constituencies of the college. "There are a total of 75 council seats available to undergraduate students," said Judith Poe, Chair ECC.

> "...it is a great experience being a part of a large committee of this magnitude that will allow students to be involved and aware of the current issues surrounding UTM"
> – Preena Chauhan

Such members include the president of EPUS and 14 other elected part-time students, the president of ECSU and 14 full-time students or ECSU directors, appointed by ECSU; 15 elected full-time students from each of the Division of Humanities, Social Sciences and Sciences. Poe said, "there are quite a few seats still available."

Regardless of the shortage of student involvement on the council, ECC has done a lot to try and promote their committee. During Clubs Week, they held volunteer sign-ups where they encouraged students to indicate whether they were interested in sitting on committees. ECSU President, Preena Chauhan, further described her plans of holding volunteer/ECC meetings, perhaps following the midterms, to discuss ECC and the level of commitment required.

"Eventually, I would like this core group of students to caucus on a monthly basis and talk about the issues," she said.

In the past, students didn't know much about ECC. Last year's ECSU council tried to publicize the 45 available seats to students and this year they are trying to do the same.

Since having a seat on ECC means having your voice heard, the empty seats affect the students at UTM, because with greater student involvement on the council, there would be more students to complain about the problems and issues concerning the campus on behalf of the students. Chauhan said it would also allow students, "a chance for empowerment to actually make positive changes on the campus and make the differences we want to see. In addition, it is a great experience being a part of a large committee of this magnitude that will allow students to be involved and aware of the current issues surrounding UTM."

In addition to the Council, there are two Standing Committees, which also contain vacancies for undergraduate students. Both the College Affairs Committee and the Academic Affairs Committee have vacant seats for five full-time students and one part-time student.

"These committees also welcome Alternates," Poe pointed out. "Meaning that if a student has a class at the time of a particular meeting, his/her Alternate can attend in his/her place."

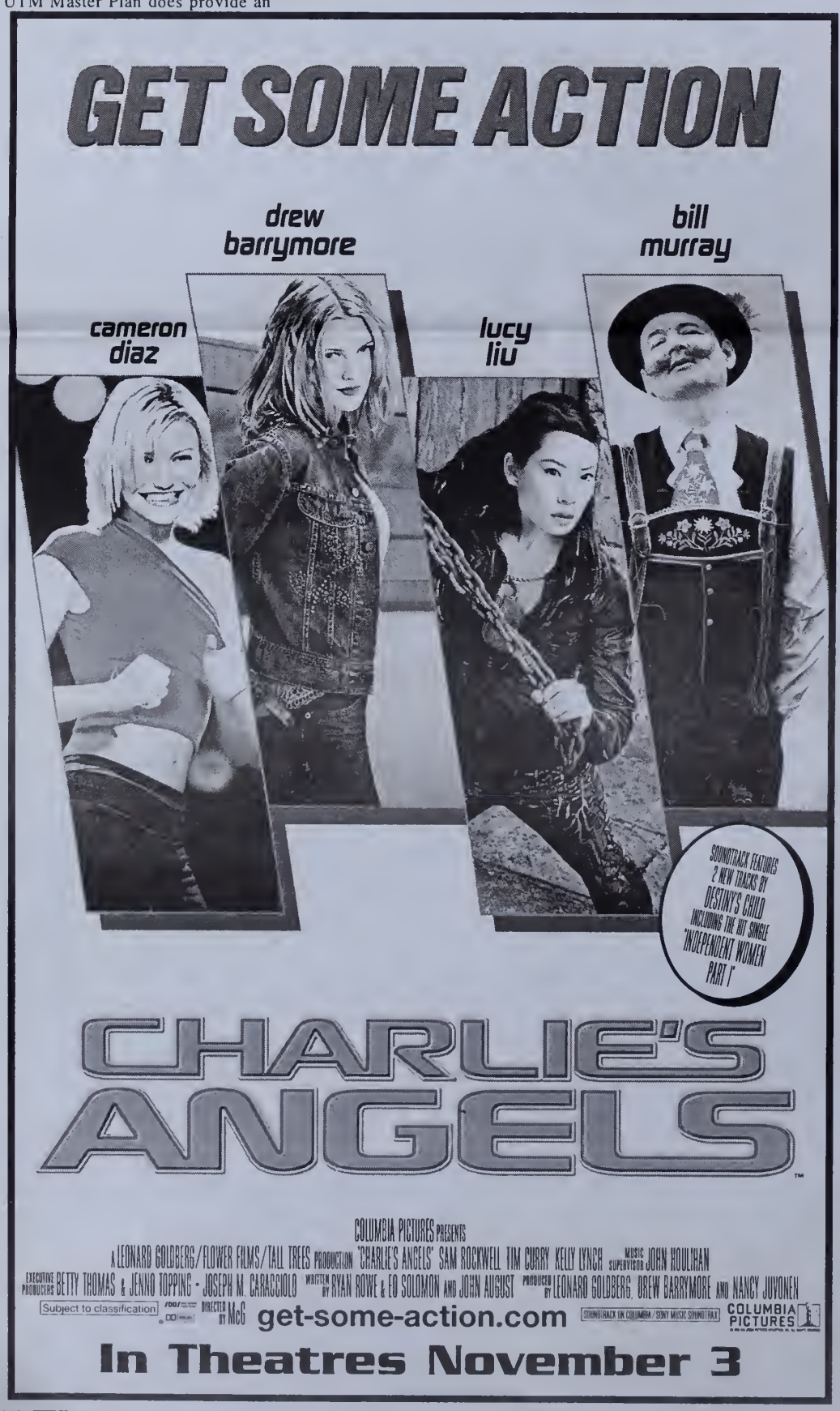
The College Affairs Committee makes recommendations on policies relating to campus associations, internal campus communications, rental of college buildings, college services, non-academic disciplinary matters, secondary school liaison, community relations and college functions and ceremonials. The College Affairs Committee has two subcommittees; one being Transportation and Parking and second, Ground Monitoring. This committee considers the matters of concern relating to residences, parking and food services.

The Academic Affairs Committee makes recommendations on policies relating to Registrarial Services, admissions, curriculum, research, graduate studies, library services, technical services, academic appeals, and scholarships and awards.

The meetings of the council and its standing committees are normally open meetings. This means that any member of the college community is welcome to attend, whether or not they are members of the council or the committees.

Upcoming council meetings are scheduled for November 9, December 7, February 1, March 8, and April 5, all at 3:30 p.m. in the South Building Council Chambers. Some of the issues expected to come before the council this year include: the CCIT program, the campus Master Plan, proposals for new residences, phasing out the three-year degree, parking and food services budgets, and approval of new courses and programs for 2001-2002.

Chauhan said, "we are more effective working together towards the same goal, rather than working against each other."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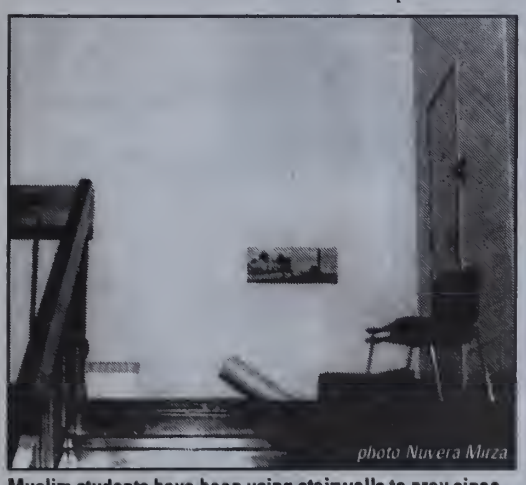
Cultural clubs ask: Where do we pray?

BY RABIAH QURESHI

For an extended period of time, students from different religious backgrounds at Erindale have voiced their concerns over the lack of a Multicultural Faith Prayer Centre.

The other two campuses of U of T – St. George and Scarborough – have designated specific areas where students have the advantage of praying regardless of religion. The St. George campus gave a prayer room exclusively to the Muslim students during the holy month of Ramadan last year. It was located on the 14th floor of Robarts Library. "They were allowed to come and go and use the room when they pleased. They were given the keys to the place," explained Rufaida Mohammed, president of the Muslim Students' Association (MSA). She went on to say, "The Western administration gives a prayer facility for the Muslim students there to pray all year round...we are a far cry from home."

The Muslim Students' Association, The Baptist Students' Ministries Club and the Erindale Varsity Christian Club have approached SAC Erindale Chair Sommer-Anne Dhun regarding this issue.



Muslim students have been using stairwells to pray since UTM does not have a designated prayer area.

"Students need somewhere to go, relax, meditate and reflect," she said. "We're the only college that doesn't have it. Many Muslim students have been praying on the stairwells, which to me is degrading to the individual. I am a Catholic and at the end of the day I would like to go to a quiet place and pray."

Discussions over the implementation of the centre have been underway since last year, but no action has yet been taken to complete the "project." Mohammed and Dhun, among other concerned students, have attended numerous board meetings to resolve the issue of designating a prayer place. Three places have been suggested: the meeting room on the second floor of the Student Centre; the boardroom on the second floor of the Student Centre; and the East Wing of the Student Centre. Prior to the construction of the Student Centre, Mohammed approached the Student Centre Management Board regarding this issue, and she is set to meet them again today.

Islam prohibits the drinking of alcohol. Most students would prefer the East Wing of the Student Centre to be the place where students could pray. "It might be objectionable for most Muslim students to pray in an area that serves alcohol, whether it is the board room or meeting room on the second floor it doesn't matter because the pub is on the first floor in the same building," said Mohammed.

When asked what the multi-faith prayer area would consist of, both Dhun and Mohammed agreed that it would be a room with bare walls, without any pictures and carpets on the floor. Dhun went on to say, "Then there would be chairs too...and it would be a quiet and conducive place."

Regarding the potential of conflicts arising between various religious practices and schedules conflicting, both Mohammed and Dhun said that there would be scheduled times for the various groups. If at one time or another they did have conflicts, the possibility of booking another room exists. There would be meetings with the heads of all religious groups on campus to avoid such circumstances.

SC hurts Imaginus

Students look through piles of posters last week when Imaginus set up shop in the Student Centre.
According to Imaginus Representative Darryl Hoskins, "Sales were down about 30 per cent compared to last year. Last yaar we were in the Meeting Place for two days and in tha Student Centre for two days. It's really hard to get the amount of sales wa had last yaar when there is no traffic coming through here. Our sales are impulsa-based – people buy posters when they sea us here."

SC Programmer butchers SC event

Continued from front

minute. I'm not even sure how everything happened. All of a sudden, it just came up. I don't think there was enough advertising for it. I personally didn't see any advertisements for the event," she said.

"Something like 'What's Your Beef?' needs to be advertised well so that it is useful. If we don't advertise it well and only a few students show up, then what's the point? And I was upset because I couldn't make it to the event – I had a lab at that time. Anyone who sets up an ECSU event should make sure that everyone on the council can attend. It was poorly organized."

Amirhoushmand's lack of advertising wasn't the only problem – panel members were not properly invited.

According to Amirhoushmand, "The Principal couldn't come and Les McCormick couldn't come. Mark Overton was supposed to come in place of McCormick but he couldn't come either. They all backed out at the last minute. I gave Principal McNutt two weeks notice."

But Principal Robert McNutt, who was among Amirhoushmand's list of people for the panel, said that he never formally heard from Amirhoushmand.

"I remember being made aware that the event might happen, but nothing was confirmed through my assistant Susan Curry. With my schedule, it is essential that this is done. I hope the event can be rescheduled in the near future as I welcome the opportunity to interact with the students and to listen to and respond to their concerns," said McNutt.

Amirhoushmand said that all the panel members were called over the phone and invited, but Chauhan said that a verbal invitation is not enough.

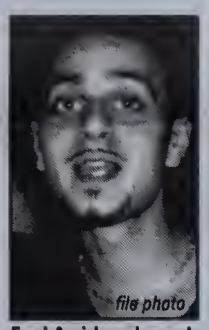
"You have to give written notification of the event," she said.

On top of poor advertising and inadequate invitations, Amirhoushmand also didn't cancel 'What's Your Beef?' properly and ECSU may be stuck with the bill for equipment rented from Facility Resources.

Chauhan said that Amirhoushmand did not post signs informing people that the event was cancelled – a task that she said Amirhoushmand should have thought of.

"I thought it was pretty obvious that he should have put up a notice of cancellation," she said.

"I thought that he would at least put up notices that the event was cancelled. He didn't cancel the rented items – I think we needed a podium and two microphones," said Oliveira.



Fred Amirhoushmand: ECSU's Student Centre Programmer.

Oliveira was unsure of the total cost that ECSU may be billed for or if ECSU would even be billed for them.

"I think [facility resources] has a right to bill us because the things that were ordered weren't cancelled," she said.

Chauhan said that holding 'What's Your Beef?' as soon as possible is important because, "if you have it too late, you're not leaving yourself enough time to make change. Ideally, I'd like to see it happen in November. This event is one method for students to make changes at U of T."

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Editorial

THE MEDIUM

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Freddie botches his beef

EDITORIAL

What's your beef? Your beef should be that ECSU didn't do what they advertised...or poorly advertised. The second annual "What's your beef" panel, where students stand up in front of a panel of UTM administrators and student leaders didn't happen because, according to ECSU Student Centre Programmer Fred Amirhoushmand, it wasn't "advertised properly…it was everyone's responsibility."

The event was Amirhoushmand's responsibility, and he didn't ask other ECSU members for help before the event failed.

But the greatest contradiction comes with Amirhoushmand's story.

Amirhoushmand said the event was scheduled for Thursday October 19th at 2:30 p.m.

Amirhoushmand claims that the big guys – Principal Robert McNutt and Registrar Mark Overton backed out at the last minute.

If this was true, then they must have had a pretty good reason to back out of a panel discussion that addresses student concerns – something that should be at the top of their priorities. It turns out that Principal McNutt was scheduled to meet with The Medium on Thursday, October 19th at 2:30 p.m – an interview for an unrelated story scheduled four days earlier.

There's no way Principal McNutt would back out of the "What's your beef" panel to meet with The Medium for a UTM expansion story.

Principal McNutt confirmed this by telling The Medium he never formally heard from Amirhoushmand.

Principal McNutt never showed up to the event because he didn't know about it!

Amirhoushmand blames everyone else for his screw-up, and won't take responsibility for the botched event.

His poor organization shows his lack of commitment to serving the students, and students suffer for this. At the very least, Amirhoushmand could have booked an appointment with the principal's secretary for the panel. It would only take a simple phone call to the right person. But it didn't happen.

And it gets better, ECSU could get stuck with the bill for the equipment rented for the affair. Not only do students not get to address their concerns, but they get to pay for not getting to address their concerns with their incidentals.

In last year's campaign blurb in The Medium, Amirhoushmand said "I want students to come out to events that will interest them and have a great time, every time…fundamentally, I plan on maintaining connections within our student community to address their concerns."

Well, Fred, you've failed miserably on all accounts. And your dumping the blame by saying that others backed out insults our intelligence and tries our patience.

This entire event was a disaster, and shows a real problem with our Student Union. There's a lack of communication within the group – ECSU president Preena Chauhan didn't know about "What's your beef" until a few days before, and she had a lab at the time – and with two vacant positions – Advertising Director, and College Affairs Commissioner – ECSU hurts for help.

Chauhan says ECSU may have to supervise Amirhoushmand's future tasks. What's the point of having an elected representative – Amirhoushmand was elected for Special Projects Director in April – if he can't perform his own duties without supervision? That's the reason for electing a public official in the first place – ideally they're the best person for the job and will best serve the public interests.

Ideally, ECSU wouldn't have to reprimand any of their employees.

Ideally, student leaders wouldn't blame others for their mistakes.

Ideally, a Student Centre programmer would know how to program events.

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Fri 4 pm Trevor must raise his hand when he wants to speak New rule at the medium for everyone Yvette was initiated with a leaves-burying ceremony She responded by stuffing leaves in her own bag Nice work Yvette Sachin asked if he could use the phone No Sat Astrid and Sachin are content playing hockey in the office The Ghosts of Medium past Budgell and Fancy visited Nowhere to go, huh boys? Sun where is everyone? Tracy called Adam to ask him if I knew where to park downtown It's as fucked up as it sounds Last night we got an extra hour I pray for that every night Baseball game Thursday at 1pm We're doing a roster for this game We need to win it We had to feed Jen popcorn for being insubordinate 7 45pm Holy shit A new record looks like Jackie's coming to Etobicoke with us Good night all

The Pub needs your help

Dear Editor,

Two issues ago there were two letters and one article written about the Pub. As the VP Finance of ECSU, the Pub is one of my main concerns and by reading the paper for the past two weeks, there seems to be more confusion on this campus about our Pub than I thought. There are a few main points I'd like to address. With respect to the article that was written, I sat in on the meetings that take place every week between Christine Capewell (Business Services), Roland Zimmerman (Aramark), Maxine Dawkins (Pub Manager) and myself. Every week since the summer it has been an on-going battle to make Aramark realize that the service they provide to students in the Pub is inadequate. For all those students who have put in complaints and have talked to the pub staff about this issue, I thank you. It was only after handing Aramark a binder full of food complaints that they realized maybe, just maybe, there actually was a problem. Maxine and I keep pushing to have these problems corrected, and I believe that we are headed in the right direction. With respect to the letter written by SAC chair Sommer-Ann Dhun, I understand her concern about the pub being closed on Fridays. ECSU is not happy about this but we weren't given much of a choice. When I sit at these meetings and I'm told that Aramark is not making a profit and that they can't afford to pay people to work in their kitchen, that bothers me for a number of reasons. Firstly, I believe it is Aramark's responsibility to keep students happy, and they haven't done this. Secondly, all complaints about food end up in Maxine's office and she is not in charge of the kitchen. Third, if Aramark is not going to send a cook in on Fridays, then legally we cannot be open. It is against the law to serve alcohol without the ability to serve food. The Pub isn't looking to make a profit off students, it wants to provide great services at great prices, give students a place to relax and have some fun, give this campus something to take pride in and call our own, and ultimately, it just wants to break even at the end of the year.

Another issue concerning the Pub's closure was the loss of study space. SAC has a seat on the Student Centre Management Board so it should know that one of the issues we have discussed since the summer was caging off the bar so that students can use the pub as study space when it is not open. If you want answers where that issue is concerned, I suggest you question Christine Capewell and ask her to find the money to purchase the fence we have so frequently discussed. If the students want to lobby someone, then maybe it should be the other two parties that are involved in the Pub, because ECSU members are students just like the rest of you and we want and expect the same as you do. The one letter I could appreciate was the one expressing concern for the pub. I am very proud to say that Maxine is the best manager the Blind Duck has had in decades and her staff is great. But the Pub will only be as much fun as the students make it. The Pub works very hard at trying to provide and accommodate all requests made. But it doesn't matter how hard they work, it is up to us as students to be a part of the non-academic aspect of student life. I know we all came here for a great education, but we also came to University to grow as individuals, to discover who we really are, and realistically, I think we came to have some fun, and make friends and life-long memories. ECSU alone can't keep the Pub afloat. It is up to all of us as students to take pride in the fact that we are UTM students and we are the ones who can keep the spirit of the Blind Duck Pub alive.

Rose Oliveira

Letter from the Editor:

The residence debate over the last few weeks has centered partly around the issue of publishing anonymous letters in The Medium. While The Medium may print anonymous letters if "there is a clear and pressing reason to protect the anonymity" of the writer, (Schedule B, Article 1, Medium II publications code of journalistic ethics) it is essential that we know who writes these letters, and then make a decision to publish them. The Medium is holding two more 'letters to the editor' signed "Anonymous."
We will not publish these letters until the writers identify themselves to us.

Editorial Board

Letters Policy

Letters to the editor will be edited for spelling, grammar, style, and coherence. Letters will not exceed 500 words in print. Letters that incite hatred, violence or letters that are racist, homophobic, sexist, or libelous, will not be published. Letters reflect opinions of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editor-in-chief, other editors and staff, or *The Medium*'s Board of Directors. In other words, just because we print it doesn't necessarily mean we agree with it. Submission does not guarantee publication. Submission of a letter to *The Medium* presumes the writer has read, and agrees with, this Policy. Please submit letters on disk.

OPINION

Managing your money: Budget

If you want greater control over your financial life, here's a tip: put together a budget.

A budget is an essential element of any financial plan. It's a way to track your income and expenses and to adjust your finances so they if better with your goals. Once you have a budget, you can establish realistic financial objectives and earmark more of your money for savings and investments.

Your budget can show you a way to free up cash for short-term financial needs - for instance, your next vacation or a down payment. It can also generate more to invest for long-term wealth such as Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs).

Your budget start-up

Here are some ideas to get you started on the road to budgeting:

If you have access to one of the many personal finance computer software programs available, it's easy to formulate a budget. With a few clicks of the mouse, most of these programs will create one for you - provided that you've been meticulous about entering your financial data. If you don't have access to a computer, a good alternative is to simply use paper.

The first thing to do is calculate your monthly income. Using your spreadsheet or notebook, list all components of your income in on column and appropriate dollar amounts in another column. Remember to include salary and bonuses, commission, pension income, investment income from stocks or bonds, rental real estate, alimony and child support - then subtract income tax.

Next, move on to your monthly expenses. Using columns again, list you monthly spending. You'll have to gather up receipts. To track other expenses, consult your bank statements or cheque book, credit-card statements and any othe records you have. It's best to average your expenses over three or four months since there are some expenses which don't occur each month.

Jot down everything you can think of, including mortgage payments or rent, property taxes, utilities, loan payments, private health insurance, car lease payments, car insurance, parking fees, public transportation, dry cleaning, gifts, clothing, groceries, child care, restaurant meals, vacations, charitable donations, life insurance and entertainment. If you put aside money for savings or investments, such as RRSP contributions, note these as well.

When your list of income and expenses is complete, total the amounts in each column. To determine what's left over at the end of each month, subtract your expenses from your income. The result is the amount you have to save and invest.

Your budget tune-up

Now it's time to make adjustments. If the amount is small (perhaps even negative) you've got some fine-tuning to do. But even if you're happy with what you see, you can still use your budget to reduce spending and increase your savings and investments.

Make one last column, and jot down what you really want to spend every month in each category. Be realistic. Don't cut too much, or you'll never stick to your plan. And every few months, take a look at how you're doing - maybe you'll find ways to further improve your finances.

Another tip: consulting a professional financial advisor never hurts.

This column provide by Farhan A. Hamidani of the Investors Group Financial Services Inc.,

The Adventures of Billy: Part IV

By Richie Mehta

Billy had had enough. He decided he'd take out his frustrations with administration at the second annual "What's your beef" panel. He couldn't believe the school actually had a forum for complaints. With everything that happened over the past 7 weeks, this was the perfect place for Billy to address his concerns. He'd ask about parking, line-ups at the registrar's office, bus fees, and the pub closure.

He just needed to talk to somebody. No more runaround from administrators. No more "oh, you have to take it up with this person. He's not in at the moment," or "That's not my responsibility. Take it up with facility resources, or Physical Plant, or the Principal's Office."

Today, Billy would talk, others would listen, and his voice would resonate throughout the campus.

Billy went to the info booth first thing and asked the attendant what time "What's your Beef" began.

"Oh, I don't know," said the attendant. "You'll have to ask Preena or Fred. They'd know."

Billy had heard of Preena, the ECSU president. He often saw her running around the school on some business.

She walked out of the office at that moment.

"Oh, Preena," Billy said. "What time's the 'What's your beef' thing today?"

"I don't know. I think it's 2:30 p.m., but I can't make it. You'll have to ask Fred what's going on," she responded.

"Who's Fred?" asked Billy. But Preena was already gone. It didn't matter. He'd go at 2:30 p.m. They'd address all his problems then.

Billy ascended the half-stairs of the Student Centre. It was 2:34 p.m. What a crappy staircase, he thought. He couldn't figure out whether he used more or less energy climbing these stairs then he did climbing normal stairs.

He was in a good mood.

He walked towards the board room, slightly nervous about the lack of traffic, considering the nature of the event.

He reached the board room and went to open the door.

The handle wouldn't budge.

He peered through the curtains, and saw a vacant room. The overcast sky brought a pale dark gray light into the room.

Billy looked around for anybody of importance. He felt like an idiot, holding his backpack, wearing his Reebok's, and standing in the middle of the hallway looking confused.

He felt so sad.

He went to info booth and asked the attendant what happened. She had no valid answer. "Ask Fred," she said.

Who was Fred? Where was Fred? He felt so angry, so defeated.

He remembered what his father, a deeply religious man, once told him. "Son, when you're angry, and you think the world is against you, pray. Pray to god, or pray to whatever you believe in. You're faith in something good will get you out of the worst situation.

He asked the girl where the prayer centre was on campus.

"There isn't one. But you could use the stairwell in the south entrance of the South Building," she said. "There shouldn't be too many interruptions."

Billy cried.

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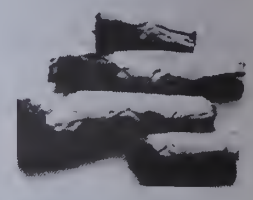
The weed war



Budding legislation

By Rory Ganness

In Southern Ontario alone, almost 2 million people indulge in the once socially stigmatized intoxicant known as Marijuana or Cannabis Sativa. While the number of people who smoke the drug seems staggering, what seems even more astounding is the diversity of its users.

The stereotypical image of the red-eyed, long-haired teenager who rolls up, lights up, and smokes up no longer accurately reflects the population who use marijuana. Today, the circle may consist of stockbrokers, high school teachers, University professors, lawyers, bus drivers, someone's mother, someone's daughter, and someone's sister.

Laws reflect a society's customs, conventions, and beliefs. The increasingly relaxed social attitude toward marijuana use puts the onus of reflective change on the courts and legislators, who must either tighten laws or loosen laws surrounding marijuana based on the collective views and values of society.

On July 31, 2000, the question of "marijuanization" received political attention again with the case of Terry Parker. Parker, a 44-year-old epileptic sufferer, needed to use marijuana to control his seizures. As a result, the Ontario Court of Appeal struck down the section of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, (CDSA) which labeled the possession of marijuana a crime.

Medically, marijuana appears to be a plausible treatment for certain diseases and conditions. The rationale rests on the notion that it is unreasonable to make someone who suffers from an illness that can be eased with marijuana choose between health and imprisonment - a choice that violates a person's constitutional right to liberty and security.

Another judicial ruling, similar to the Parker case, occurred in the case of Regina v. Morgentaler (a.k.a. "the abortion doctor"). In the Morgentaler case, the Supreme Court could not determine clear criteria for what constituted medical necessity concerning abortion. In both the Morgentaler case and the Parker case, a clear standard of medical necessity failed to be specified. Both cases resulted in laws being struck down. In the Morgentaler case, the court ruled that preventing a woman from terminating a pregnancy violated her right to security of the person. After the responsibility to reach a decision proceeded to the Ontario government, three choices remained: 1. appeal the decision within thirty days, 2. create a new, constitutionally sound legislation, and 3. strike down the law altogether. The abortion law was declared void. New abortion laws were not drafted, leaving no specific abortion laws in Canada. Similarly unresolved is the issue of marijuana. The Court determined that it is unconstitutional to prohibit the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes. The federal government failed to appeal this decision within the allotted thirty days. Two choices now remain - abolish laws on marijuana altogether, or create new laws. The federal government must rewrite the marijuana laws within one year. If legislators fail to amend the Controlled Substances and Drugs Act within this time, no criminal laws on marijuana possession will exist.

"The Court determined that it is unconstitutional to prohibit the use of marijuana for medical purposes. The federal government failed to appeal this decision within the allotted thirty days. Two choices now remain - abolish laws on marijuana altogether, or create new laws"

Advocates for the legalization of marijuana hail the Ontario Court decision a monumental one for both recreational and medicinal users. Even if marijuana is legalized as a treatment for certain patients – a type of medication comparable to morphine and other such drugs – marijuana will still be labeled a drug and marijuana will still be a controlled substance. A drug is always a drug.

In a society where the use of marijuana is so prevalent, the federal government must consider the potential consequences of marijuana abuse. Will the same issues arise that arose with tobacco smoke? Will second-hand smoke become an issue? Will marijuana-producing companies face lawsuits as tobacco companies have? If the federal government assumes responsibility for establishing laws allowing marijuana use, the federal government is also responsible for controlling its use.

Supporters of marijuana legalization claim that marijuana is no more harmful than alcohol and tobacco, and possibly even less harmful. The difficulty with this argument is that it attempts to justify the legalization of marijuana while suggesting faulty legislation regarding alcohol and tobacco.

"Even if marijuana is legalized as a treatment for certain patients - a type of medication comparable to morphine and other such drugs - marijuana will still be labeled a drug and marijuana will still be a controlled substance. A drug is always a drug.

While this latest judicial decision in what has been coined the "weed war" may appear as a victory for marijuana users, it is premature to assume so. The decision by the Ontario Court should be viewed more as a medical advancement, a possible means of easing human suffering. The final decision, however, remains in question at this point.

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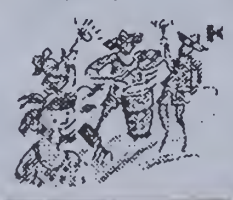

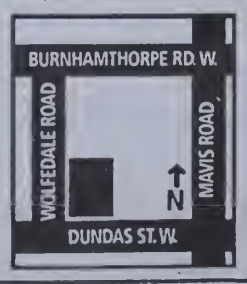

A medical perspective

By Tanya P. Ingleton

Should marijuana be legalized in Canada for medical purposes? Modern society throws out many precarious challenges. For the most part, people never fully know what tomorrow may bring. Among the most challenging experiences is that of learning to cope and live with an illness.

Medicinal marijuana assists in treating particular symptoms of illnesses such as AIDS/HIV, cancer, and multiple sclerosis. Legalizing marijuana could mean alleviated discomfort and pain for the sick and dying, which could, in turn, inspire an uplifted disposition and outlook on life.

Those who accept marijuana as being beneficial from a medical standpoint are left questioning why a man or woman suffering with an illness whose symptoms marijuana may calm should be forced to break the law in order to relieve their pain.

Many UTM students echo this attitude and feel that marijuana should be legalized for medical use – legalized but with caution. "There are always two perspectives on the legalization of marijuana to consider. The government, for decades, has challenged the issue, and continues to perceive marijuana as illegal. I don't think it's a problem if the government regulates the usage of marijuana for sick patients. Marijuana is legal in some American states. Why not here?" says Ali Shahabuddin. Fourth year student Sean O'Leary adds, "In terms of chemotherapy, I know that it has been proven to work."

Marijuana contains key compounds beneficial in relieving pain from patients who suffer from different conditions:

HIV/AIDS: Marijuana alleviates nausea, vomiting, and the loss of appetite.

Cancer: Marijuana can be used as an anti-nauseant for cancer chemotherapy. Smoking marijuana is proven more effective than conventional prescription anti-nauseants.

Glaucoma: Marijuana reduces intraocular pressure (IOP) for patients suffering from glaucoma – the leading cause of blindness.

Multiple Sclerosis: The cannabis in marijuana is effective in treating the painful spasms and other symptoms of MS, such as stiffness or unsteadiness.

"Our Stories"

"*Our Stories*" is dedicated to showcasing student talent. This section appears regularly in The Medium as student submissions are received.
So, whether it's poetry, short stories, or photography that interests you, "*Our Stories*" is an outlet for your creative expression.

The Pier's #1 Imports

BY S.M. KRANJEC

"Is this umbrella waterproof?" the customer asked.

She had blond hair and entered the store five minutes before closing. The umbrella in question measured 8' in diameter and belonged in the center of the Tambora patio table.

"I want to be able to sit under it even if it's raining," she continued. The table also reached about 8' in diameter. Waterproof or not, it wouldn't keep her dry if she sat at the table during a storm.

"How come these two candles are $12.00 and all the rest are $15.00?" The couple stood there and looked at me.

"I'm sorry," I said. "It must have been a pricing mistake, but I can give you the two that are priced at $12.00 for that price. The others I'll have to charge you $15.00 for."

"But we want five altogether and I think that we should only pay $12.00 for each of them." The woman glared at me.

"I'm sorry, Ma'am, but I cannot sell you the ones that are marked as $15.00 for $12.00. It is against company policy and the law."

"It's okay honey, we'll just pay what they're priced at." The man tried to quiet her down.

"I can't believe this! This is disgusting! It's not our fault you people are incompetent when it comes to pricing!" Other customers watched. I didn't need this on a Saturday, our busiest day.

"Yes Ma'am, I realize that it is our mistake and that is why I will sell you the two for $12.00. Beyond that, I'm sorry, but I can't do anything else."

She stormed out of the store and snatched a customer service telephone number pamphlet as she left. The man paid for the Ginger Peach candles and left.

"Um, okay, like, I got this gift certificate as a gift and, uh, I've been in this store like five hundred times already and I just don't like anything." The woman with the Indian label black satin jacket stared at me.

"Umhmm?" I replied, not knowing what else to say.

"So, I want cash instead."

"I'm sorry, but if you read the gift certificate, it states on it that it is not redeemable for cash."

"Well *I'm sorry*, but my brother made a mistake in getting it for me and I'm not going to use it so I want cash."

"Ma'am, I'm sorry, but - " She stormed off and ran wildly around the store, yanking things off the shelves.

"Fine! Here! Add all this crap up so that I can use the stupid gift certificate." She dumped the merchandise, much of it breakable, on the counter. I knew that what I had to tell her next was not going to be received well, but, it's my job.

"Okay, but I have to tell you that if for any reason you are not satisfied with your purchases and want to bring them back, we'll have to issue you a merchandise credit as the refund since you'll have paid for them with a gift certificate." I stepped back and waited.

"Oh my God! I can't fucking believe this! Isn't there any way I can get this fucking thing turned into cash?"

"If your brother still has his receipt from when he purchased it, bring it in and you'll get the refund for it in the same way that he paid for it."

"Fine!" Her black satin back plowed through the doors and careened around the corner.

"No, that's not the right total. This ornament is $4.00, not $6.00." The woman staring at Olga wanted a fight. Olga tried to explain that because we belong to an American company, all our merchandise comes with the American price on it. We remove this price or black it out and put the Canadian sticker on the item in its place. Because the Christmas season had started, and we had received over five hundred ornaments, home office had decided to save us from pricing hell by having the ornaments sport tags with both the U.S. and Canadian prices. Signs all over the store advised our customers of this. This woman had seen the notices but wanted to kick up a stink anyway. Home office had saved us from pricing hell, but just as surely plunged us into customer hell. I walked over to try and help Olga.

"Are you the manager here?" she bellowed.

"Yes Ma'am, I'm an assistant manager, what can I do for you?"

"I'm a Canadian. I live in Canada. I don't need a U.S. price on things that I buy in Canada. But if you insist on catering to those American jackasses, then I insist that I get this ornament for the cheaper price!"

I explained again. She stared vacantly.

"You would sell your soul for an American dollar, wouldn't you?"

"Ma'am, I'm sorry if there has been some confusion but there is no need to speak that way to me."

"You know what? You and Pier I can go fuck off and die!"

"Okay Ma'am, I think it is time for you to leave. There's the door. Good-bye." Her eyes widened. She stormed out.

I went to the back room, told my store manager what had happened, called customer service to report the incident, and then cried.

"How come this bowl is $4.00 and all the rest are $6.00?" I had seen her peel off the sticker on top. I went over to look at the bowl she held. It very clearly said 'US' beside the price.

"Oh, as you see there Ma'am, this is the American price." She shook her head before I had finished.

"No, no. That doesn't mean U.S., as in America, that says 'us,' as in you guys. It means that's your price." I sold her the bowl for $4.00. I had to. Her explanation deserved originality points.

"Excuse me. I'm terribly sorry, but my dog has just peed on your couch over there." The woman actually looked as if it was no big deal. She didn't offer to pay for anything either.

"Oh. That's all right. We'll clean it up." What else could I say? It isn't company policy to make people pay for stuff they damage or break.

"Is this furniture for outside?"

"What would you do with this?"

"Thank you for spending an hour with me, but I'll need to come back with my husband so that he can see the set. You can haul it all back now."

"Where would you put this?"

"Are you sure these candles won't lose their scent?"

"I saw this for cheaper at IKEA."

"Your music is too loud and I don't like it."

"It's too cold in here."

"It's too hot in here."

The company motto says: 'So many reasons to love Pier 1.' It's byline should read: 'So many more reasons to strangle Pier 1's customers.'

photo/Samantha George

GET IT WRITE!

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Arts & Entertainment

Blair Witch 2 a frightful mess

MOVIE REVIEW

By James Brookes

Jeff (Jeffrey Donovan) flies over the cuckoo's nest with a colourful cast of characters to investigate the mysteries of Burkittsville in *Book of Shadows: Blair Witch 2*.

You'd think that after the execution of an alleged witch, a ritualistic satanic massacre, the brutal murder of seven children, and the mysterious disappearance of three would-be filmmakers, young people would learn to just stay out of the woods of Burkitsville, Maryland. But young people never seem to learn, and so we have *Book of Shadows: Blair Witch 2*.

Paying homage to both the first film,*The Blair Witch Project*, and the real-life hype it sparked last summer, the film opens documentary-style with hicks, stoners, and goths galore, each adding their own bit of mass-hysteria surrounding the doomed, camera-crazy trio of *The Blair Witch Project*.

Eventually, after all the fake news reels, the enterprising teens cashing in on Blair Witch stick figures, and the old folks babbling about what they saw or heard back when they walked ten miles to school in the snow, we reach the conventionally shot meat of the movie.

This time we join five – count 'em, five – young morsels as they set out into the notorious Black Hills of Burkitsville. There's Tristen and Stephen (played by Tristen Skylar and Stephen Barker Turner,) an unmarried couple who can't agree on whether they should keep their baby, and also find time to argue about whether the Blair Witch is fact or fantasy. Kim (Kim Director), the bad-ass, psychic goth chick joins up with Erica, the hot Wiccan always ready to tie anyone who badmouths a witch to the stake. And then there's Jeff (Jeffrey Donovan), their local capitalist tour guide, recently released from a mental institution.

Determined to capture something on film, our witch hunters camp out at the ruins of Rustin Par's house – the place where the first movie ended. The trouble starts when they wake up after blacking out to find their equipment snatched, their research destroye, and their tapes buried in the exact same spot that the first Blair witch tapes were found. Gasp!

Missing five hours of their lives – not just because they got drunk and stoned all night – they head back to Jeff's house, an abandoned warehouse conveniently located in the Black Hills region. From here, the hallucinations – or are they? – begin and paranoia escalates as fingers point and each character tries to put the blame on someone else.

Cheesy? Yes. Does some of this sound familiar? It should. Been done before? Of course. Does it work? For a while, it does. Where *The Blair Witch Project* scared audiences with what they couldn't see, this *Blair Witch* is notably more graphic. The violence is grizzly, and comes out of nowhere in flash edits reminiscent of *Natural Born Killers*. The sounds are more ominous and the apparitions are more eerie, allowing *Blair Witch 2* to touch some of that primal fear on which the first film fed. Director Joe Berlinger also does a good job in the suspense department for a while by flashing forward every now and then to the aftermath at the town police station.

About halfway through the film, the story becomes too rushed. The apparitions disappear, the plot becomes more obvious, making you feel like condemning it for its cheesy premise. Maybe the next time a film production company resurrects the Blair Witch, they'll resurrect the effectiveness of the first film that died in this sequel.

Theatre Erindale set on provoking *Love's Fire*

THEATRE REVIEW

By Maryam Sadeghi

They did it again. Theatre Erindale put its right foot forward, and led audiences into the Canadian premiere of *Love's Fire* to create an unforgettable theatrical experience. Seven prominent North American playwrights came together to write each scene, based on a differnt Shakespearean sonnet.

The performance consisted of a number of scenes based on the theme of love, and all the things that go with it – deception, uncertainty, jealousy, unhappiness and despair.

Erindale's Theatre and Drama Studies fourth year students played their roles with energy and confidence. The events of each scene provoked a mixture of emotions from the preview's audience: at times, they were laughing hysterically. But at other moments, the audience sat silently, trying not to breathe or move too loudly, because the mood was too romantic or serious to disturb – particularly during the scenes that contained nudity.

The blocking, lighting and costuming of the production were also well thought out by director Ralph Small. The stage, formatted as a "block box," allowed the audience, placed around three sides of the stage, to be at the same level as the actors. This created a comfortable atmosphere, and allowed the audience to feel like they were right on stage with the actors. The variations in lighting and character's costumes efficiently distinguished the differing moods of the scenes. The script's modern twist on Shakespeare required actors to speak in terms of today's language, using such words as "you" instead of "thee," and "dress" instead of "array."

The play took a peculiar turn in the last scene of the production, as the cast burst into a re-enactment of biblical stories and the story of Adam and Eve. This interesting poetical link tied together Shakespeare's sonnets, bringing the play to an end.

Love's Fire continues at the Erindale Studio Theatre from November 1 to 4.

Artist Siobhan Reddick plants a good one on model Dorianne Emmerton in William Finn's scene, Painting You. Seven playwrights are featured in the TE show.

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ALBUM DISS OF THE WEEK

Snow
Mind in the Moon
(EMI)

Everyone's favorite informer, Snow, is back to ask the question: Do pop music and a 5 o'clock shadow mix?

Snow jumps on the Len bandwagon and produces some craphappy pop tunes that might have you bopping your head to the radio for a couple of weeks until the first bar of it makes you want to vomit. Props to the guy who programmed the drum machine for some smart laziness – all he had to do was program one song and use the same beat for all the others. There really is not anything here, every song on this album sounds formulaically the same and could easily be that one song in a Disney movie that really makes you wretch.

Sadly, **Snow**'s reggae quick-talking plays a very small part on this album – in its place is an over-mastered pre-pubescent sounding voice.

The liner notes show that **Snow** prays and has a diverse collection of shoes.

Great lyrics like "Take you my place to lay ya, and I kept ballin" round out songs about wearing prophylactics, drug use and how **Snow** shouldn't have gone to jail.

This is happy, catchy, standard top-forty hit radio fodder. I give **Snow** credit for trying to make it back on to the scene, but it seems like he is taking the easiest route. I enjoyed "Informer," it was something I'd never heard before, but *Mind On The Moon* brings nothing new to my cars. If you like happy, catchy pop tunes, than you might like Snow's new offering.

-Laurence Cymet

CD reviews: An *Englishman* and a *Lazy Dog*

CD REVIEW

BY ADAM GILES

J. Englishman
Poor Li'l Rockstar
(Warner)

You may know Mr. **Englishman** from his first single "More" – the song where he sings "I-ee-I-ee-I want something more" overtop of a wailing guitar. It's a good song. It starts off with a single guitar and ***J. Englishman***'s soft voice, and then moves into heavier guitar and drum work at the chorus. *Poor Li'l Rockstar* is loaded with slow, melodic songs like "My Song," "Flowers for Ophelia," "Tripwires," and "Don't Mean a Thing." But the slow songs appear between songs that burst with speed and aggressiveness, so you can't get too comfortable listening to the CD. "Abused," "The One Thing," and "Breaking Down" are all changes of pace from the many slow songs. "Staring at the Sun" sounds a lot like Moist, only not. It's got those crazy atmospheric background noises that Moist used quite a bit on their last album.

There is a decent amount of average music on *Poor Li'l Rockstar*, but it's nothing spectacular. **J. Englishman** is a good musician but I just have two questions for him: Where the hell did you come from and what the hell is your first name? The man comes seemingly out of nowhere and co-produces this album – not bad. As for his first name, Homer J. Simpson, of *The Simpsons*, discovered his middle name was Jay, so maybe Mr. **Englishman** is playing of that piece of wit – not bad.

CD REVIEW

BY LAURENCE CYMET

Ben Watt and Jay Hannan
Lazy Dog
(EMI)

Good deep house music prevails on this two CD DJ mix compilation from **Ben Watt** (half of Everything but the girl) and **Jay Hannah**, the owners of the Lazy Dog club in Notting Hill, England. Their intent here was to give a feel of the vibe in their club. Not having been there, I can't say how successful they were, but I can say that I want to go to Lazy Dog after listening to this CD.

The two CDs are split by DJ, one spun by **Ben Watt** and the other by **Jay Hannah**. **Ben Watt**'s set has a very deep clubby feel and a slight agenda to it, as you hear smatterings of **Everything But The Girl** tracks throughout the set. I can't blame him, though – it's good music and it works. A deep soulful feeling prevails here, seamlessly mixed and delivered, complete with breaks that get the listenner right back into a good strong beat. **Sandy Riviera** featuring **LT Brown**'s track "Come Into My Room" mixes beautifully with **EBTG**'s "Wrong" and comes off as one solid track.

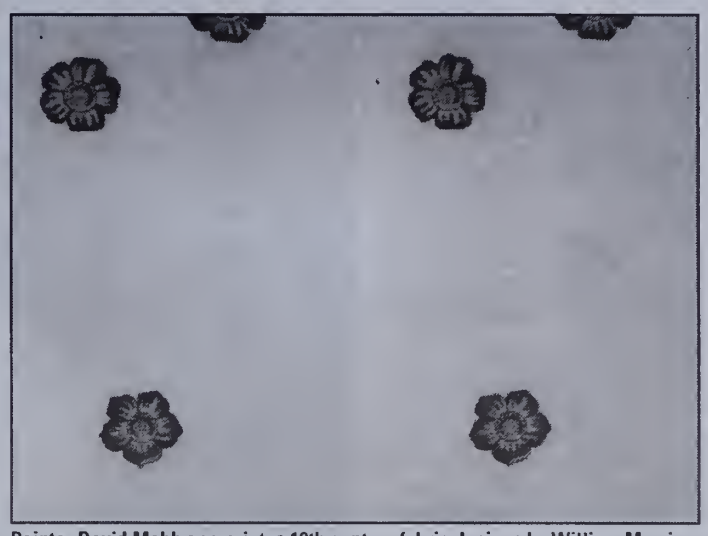
Jay Hannah's set on the second CD encompasses a very live feel – lots of live instrumentals, flutes, bass guitars, trumpets and live Latin and disco vocals. **Royal Jam** has the stand out track with "Kiss The Night," whose wicked piano licks and nice pop beats mix with sharp vocals to create a totally happy track.

Together, **Watt** and **Hannah** produce a top-notch deep house compilation – a must-have for anybody who likes good house music and a good night of dancing.

Malévich meets Morris at Mabb's solo show at the Oakville Galleries

ART REVIEW

BY JENNIFER MATOTEK



Painter David Mabb approriates 19th century fabric designs by William Morris.

Nineteenth century prints meet contemporary design sensibility in David Mabb's *Decorating Business*, on display at the Oakville Galleries Gairloch Gardens location. Mabb, a former decorator, appropriates the work of English fabric and wallpaper designer William Morris with savvy and intelligence, fusing genres and styles to create an unforgetable, provoking and brilliant body of work.

The first room of the gallery showcases several canvases and an installation piece. Larger than life-size brown canvases enclose squares of Morris' printed fabric. Each canvas displays different patterns and colours, but the prints are unified through the consistent organic motifs of flowers, bushes, and greenery. Mabb further delineates Morris' selected prints by applying white paint or gesso in the shape of a square onto the interior of Morris' fabrics.

Mabb's subtractive technique bares specific reptitions of forms, as he selectively exposes only the flowers and buds of the shrubbery pattern on the interiors of some pieces. In one of his wallpaper installations, Mabb subverts this convention by painting white over top of the wallpaper print's leafy pattern. The simplicity of the approach counters the historical implications and suggestive possibilites of his work.

A belief in order is suggested through Mabb's combined use conventional 19th century prints and Malevich-inspired polygonal forms. Mabb's use of layering, and defined treatment of foreground versus background draws his paintings into the realms of print-making and sculptural installation.

Mabb's explorations in video are obvious and overly didactic. It undermines the quality of his paintings.

The conflict between repression and reconciliation lies at the core of Mabb's interests. A brilliant exhibition.

Decorating Business is on display at the Oakville Galleries Gairloch Gardens location until November 26.

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Few follies in Alumnae production of *Talley's Folly*

THEATRE REVIEW

By Matt White

Talley's Folly is a one-act play that explores the potential relationship between Jewish accountant Matt Friedman and southern belle Sally Talley. The relationship stalls because of Talley's deep, dark secrets that Friedman must expose. Friedman tries many different tactics. He tells jokes, and even causes bodily harm to himself with a pair of ice skates.

Playwright Lanford Wilson writes in the style of kitchen-sink realism. He places interesting, believeable characters into actual stories. Many contemporary playwrights have lost the ability to tell stories through theatre. *Talley's Folly* is a poignant and entertaining story, and if the actors and director can trust the text and let the story evolve on its own, the result is highly entertaining theatre. Unfortunately, it takes a long time for the cast to trust Wilson enough to simply tell an honest story.

Paul Babiak's portrayal of Matt Friedman was over the top, and so uncommitted at times that it was annoying to watch. I understand that Babiak's character is supposed to be awkward and somewhat geeky, but Babiak was so childish he appeared to be twelve years old, instead of forty something. He rushed through the prologue that establishes the connection between Friedman and the audience.

Wilson wants the audience to identify with Friedman's character and feel sympathy as he pledges his love for Talley. Babiak frenquently looked out to the audience for their support, but before he received it, he diverted his attention elsewhere. Babiak looked like an actor who was uncomfortable on the stage instead of an actor playing an uncomfortable character.

Accountant Matt Friedman (Paul Babiak) courts Sally Talley (Tabitha Keast) in the Alumnae Theatre production of *Talley's Folly*.

Sally Talley, played by Tabitha Keast, was the stronger of the two actors, but the Talley' Southern belle accent and gestures went completely ignored.

The actors don't direct themselves, so I question the choices of director P.J. Hammond. Hammond's vision of these characters clearly differed from Wilson's visions.

Halfway through the production, the lights went dim, to suggest night falling. Friedman and Talley had a cigarette, and there was silence on the stage. Beautiful silence. When the actor's resumed their conversation it was like they were in a different play. Babiak and Keast's performance became grounded in the script. The lighting followed the natural progression of sunset to twilight. As the lighting became organic, so too did the acting.

This second part of *Talley's Folly* strengthened the production. Babiak calmed down and Keast stepped up her intensity. I went from despising this production to loving it – in less than five minutes. My advice to aspiring directors and actors: if you are producing an established playwright, especially one with the credibility of Lanford Wilson, trust that the playwright knows what he or she is doing.

Talley's Folly remains at The Alumnae Theatre Company, located on 70 Berkeley Street, until November 12.

Memories from the Totally Unknown Writers Festival: pogos and prairies on paper

STORY REVIEWS

By Adam Giles

Last Tuesday evening, I drove into Toronto, parked my car, and walked into the Rivoli on Queen Street to attend the ninth annual *Totally Unknown Writers Festival*. The popular event, hosted by Life Rattle founders Arnie Achtman and Guy Allen, showcased stories by writers unfamiliar to the general public. The evening featured gems too fine for the mainstream media's coarse eyes to see.

I sat in my chair and watched the writers stand behind the microphone on the spotlit stage and read their stories. Ten writers, ten stories. I left the Rivoli with a hundred images in my head from the stories I heard – images I will remember for a while.

I will remember the rolling roads and beautiful landscapes that Vaia Barkas described from her drive through the prairies in "South of Assiniboia." I will remember the generous man in the stiff baseball cap and big glasses that filled her tank with gas when the needle on her speedometer hovered over 'empty.'

I will remember Tracey Gonneau looking up at the TV screen to check the score of a Seattle Seahawks' football game when she couldn't make eye contact with her birth father the first time she met him in "Casey." The image of Casey handing Tracey a scrap of paper with his address on it – when Tracey wondered if they'd stay in touch – will stick with me too.

I might not remember Victoria Martinez's brother dancing around like a monkey and making fun of her in "The Mumps." But I will not forget her likening herself to a Pogo (a hotdog on a stick) or the rage she felt when her father burned her stories – because in his house, he was the boss.

It's been a while since I laughed as hard as I did when Sultan Ameerali read "The Night Shift at BK Variety." I laughed when he struggled to solve the Jumble Puzzle in the Toronto Star. I laughed when he complained of getting "chair-ass" from sitting on the flattened stool seat. And I laughed when a kid with a pair of nylons pulled over his face walked into the store, shot a few bullets toward the security camera, and walked back out of the store when he saw that none of the bullets hit the camera.

But before Ameerali read his story, Guy Allen hopped up on stage and announced the winner of the first-ever Conrad Black Award – to honour the figure who best suppresses expression. Allen announced Karen Levine of the CBC winner of this prestigious award, for protecting the public from Ameerali's stories, which she said had no point. I laughed.

I will remember Paul Maka's "Sunday Afternoon." Study time is over for Paul when his father walks into the house and criticizes him for studying, telling Paul how he would just "copy the smart guys" when he was in school.

In Rosa Veltri's "Feta Cheese," I will remember the salami skin that hung from Edyta's shoelace as Rosa tied her Docks at the beginning of the story. I won't forget the repetition of Edyta saying "nothing Ruija, nothing" when Edyta, with tears in her eyes, announced that she had been passed over for a raise again.

I will remember Karen Graham's strict second grade teacher whacking kids with his yardstick and belt strap in "The Spelling Test." I will remember her description of Queen Elizabeth's picture in the classroom: Her white dress and blue sash stuck in my mind.

With one of her hands through a pipe and a chain around her wrist, clipped to the bottom of a van, Beth Jones grabbed my attention right away in "Under the Van." I will remember Beth and Sherry locking themselves underneath the van in an effort to stop a chlorine shipment from coming into town. I will remember Beth telling people as politely and as cheerfully as possible, "We're from Greenpeace!"

For someone with a fairly horrendous memory, I think I did quite well.

Interested in writing for the Arts & Entertainment section of The Medium?

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Room 3094, South Building
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SPORTS

An Olympian's Perspective: Ode to a wool blanket

This is part two of a series of journal entries kept by Olympian Claire Carver-Dias during the Olympic games.

I fell in love at the Olympics. Love at first sight actually.

On September 7th, after a twenty-six hour voyage from Pearson Airport to the Olympic Village, I burst into the Village house assigned to my team, and tossed my recently acquired Roots outfitting and Speedo gear on the floor. My roommate and I began whining about the lack of space and absence of air circulation. Our complaint session quickly drew to a halt when I looked across a crowded Olympic Village room floor, cluttered with our miscellaneous baggage, and saw the bright blue wonder spread across my bed. My eyes met with brilliant white lettering that read: Sydney 2000. Oh my. This was love.

I forgot the concerns about the close quarters. All I needed was to cuddle up with my new Australian wool blanket. I jumped on my bed and under the covers. Olympic nap time. I noticed that the blue plastic head and footboards limited the bed length to about 5.4 feet. After an initial struggle, I managed to jam my 5.5-foot body into the restrictive space. A new concern arose: what about Steve Nash and his freakishly giant b-ball buddies? How would they manage to find comfort in their gymnast-sized beds?

With my blanket wrapped around me, I fell into a dream where I imagined the Canadian basketball players, stuck in their little blue beds, rolling themselves around the basketball court. The real Dream Team. .

When I awoke, I began devising a plan of how to smuggle the blanket out of the Village and back home with me after the Games. I had to have it. I tried rolling it into a small ball and forcing it into my already overflowing suitcase. I'd have to buy a new bag.

My affection for the blue blanket grew as the Olympics progressed. It kept me cozy and warm during my first nights in the Village when the temperature dropped to five degrees Celsius and my room heater was only good for drying my wet bathing suits. Then, as each Olympic day passed, the buzz of the athletes who had finished competing was blocked out by the rich fuzz of wool that covered my ears. One might say that the blanket was my Olympic hero: it braved the sticky presence of earwax to shield me from the increasing hoopla of drunken Olympians outside my room's paper-thin walls. As my affection increased, so did my desperation to find a way to keep the blanket.

The last day finally came. I spent hours packing and re-packing my bag to see if the blue blanket could somehow be jammed into place. I was willing to leave behind my Roots shoes, my towels, anything for that matter, in order to get my beloved blanket in the bag. To no avail. The blanket was too big. Reluctantly, I placed the blanket back on the bed and sat down on my suitcase to rest. This was good-bye.

Then I noticed a small piece of paper underneath my door. It was a note from my team manager that read: "Swimmers: Good news, the blankets are yours. Bring your blankets to the Village Canadian Lounge. There will be bags and shipping tags waiting for you."

UTM wins coed v-ball tourney

BY BRIAN YASCHYSHYN

Last Friday, UTM assembled a dominant co-ed volleyball team and traveled to Humber College to take on the best teams from other colleges. The early van departure seemed to have no effect on the team, as they came out flying, winning in two sets over Humber College North. The team continued their winning ways throughout the round robin, beating Humber College South, Sheridan, Seneca, and UTS, and losing only one set in the process. After watching the other teams pig out on pizza and cheesies, UTM felt confident going into the semi-finals. Facing a strong Seneca side, UTM showed pure determination and won in three sets.

Now the final was set, UTM versus their hated rivals UTS. It was a pure mis-match as UTM won 21-17, 21-13 to capture the tournament championship. The team perfectly represented UTM Volleyball despite the lack of support from faculty and students. The girls, Stephanie DeLorenzo, Inez Martincevic, and Barb Sanders, showed awesome all-around skill and determination to win, and led the team well. The guys, Rob Eidukaitis, Rick McLaren, Juan Molina, and Brian Yaschyshyn were a great complement to the girls; with good defense, serves, and an unstoppable backcourt attack. With this success, the team looks to enter other tournaments in hopes of capturing more championships and winning more t-shirts.

UTM Repeat

BY CHRIS CARRABS

Last Saturday, UTM went to Roberts Outdoor Rink to take part in the men's interfaculty ball hockey tournament. Having won the event in 1999, expectations for UTM were high. UTM went 4-0, outscoring their opposition 27-6, including a 6-2 win over Engineering in the finals. The connection between Les Kim and Saj Walli proved too much for the other teams, while Mike Burgess and Damon Conrad also performed well. Sheldon Martin, Crispin Martin, Pardeep Nagra, J P Falacho and Chris Carrabs played solid defence, hardly allowing goalie Clayton Martin to be tested. Darryl Sequeira and Niall Shanahan proved that the third line could provide scoring when needed, as Darryl Sequeira, unbelievably, potted a goal.

Ball hockey: Fear breeds hatred

Bond Girls vs. Beautiful Losers

BY ASTRID POEI

The Bond Girls shut down The Beautiful Losers in intramural ball hockey action this week. Bond Girl Kim Shapcott started the scoring spree, and combined with teammate Gina Rajack to give The Girls a 6-0 lead at the half. This combination continued to dominate the second half with Shapcott notching a total of five goals and Rajack lighting up four.

photo/Nuvera Mirza

Not in my house: Bond Girl defender Liz Wong clears it out of her zone.

Though shortened due to unforeseen circumstances, this game was a physical one, with The Bond Girls receiving two penalties. The Losers' goalie played an excellent game but The Bond Girls were just too much with the game ending 9-0 in their favour. How's that for true Bond Girl style of sportsmanship?

Red Devils vs. Flaming Paralyzers

BY TERESA SARGESON

The Flaming Paralyzers beat the Red Devils 2-1. In the first period, Erin Laporte of the Flaming Paralyzers scored the first goal with an assist from Erin Sneek. However, the Red Devils tied it with a goal by Melissa Morrison, near the end of the period. Just after Morrison's goal, Holly Grant got a three-minute penalty for high sticking. The Flaming Paralyzers took advantage of Grant's penalty, and Laporte – with an assist by Sneek – ended up scoring with a minute left in the period. In the second period both teams played hard, but the Red Devils could not score to tie the game. Reine Moussa, the Red Devils goalie, made many amazing saves throughout the game, as did the Flaming Paralyzers goalie Debbie Medeiros.

With two minutes left in the second period, Erin Sneek was taken out of the game due to a sprained ankle. Both teams played very well defensively and offensively.

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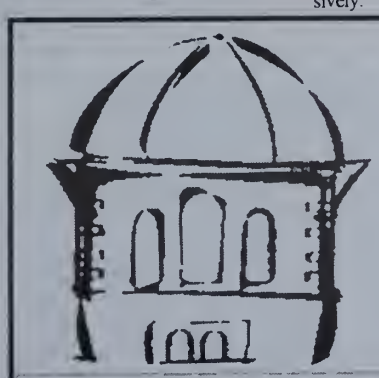

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Field hockey finishes regular season 6-0

BY NATHALIE POUPART

On October 20, UTM met their much-anticipated rivals, Scarborough. Even though UTM played without any subs, they were determined to win. Scarborough had about ten subs but they didn't use them to their advantage. UTM dominated most of the first half and their defence easily handled the forwards from Scarborough. Near the end of the first, UTM charged the net determined to score a goal. Nathalie Poupart tapped the ball towards the net and Amanda Moore gave the extra push for assurance to give UTM the lead.

UTM got tired in the second half but tried to hold it together. Near the end of the game, the defence stepped up as UTM stopped a top of the circle hit heading for the net. The forwards, Amanda Moore and Carrie Rai managed to bring the ball out of the UTM end and almost scorcd. Debbie Medeiros had another shutout. Defender Carolyn Noakes, who played with an injured back, showed great determination. Also, Dan Fietje helped UTM tremendously in all aspects of the game.

Unfortunately, the October 28 game was cancelled and UTM won by default. The team looks forward to the playoffs after completing the regular season with a 6-0 record.

Men's Div 1 basketball beats University College

BY STEVE MANCHUR

UTM's men's division 1 basketball team improved its season record to 2-2 with a convincing 95-79 thrashing of University College. UTM led for almost the whole game, finally putting away UC late in the 2nd half.

Everyone contributed on the scoreboard for UTM, led by Jason Gloger who had a team high 24 points. Gloger, a dominating post presence, has averaged a team high 21 points in the season games played so far. His size is something UTM has lacked for years, and the attention he gets opens up room for the shooters. Geoff Richardson chipped in with 18 points for UTM against UC. Geoff's versatility makes him one of the tougher players to guard in the league. UTM had a balanced scoring attack against UC. Rohit Sethi had his best game of the year, scoring 16 points, while Aman Dhillion and Lance Stroud had 10 and 9 points respectively.

Refugees U. demolishes Lobsters 73-36

BY SACHIN BHANDARI

In intramural basketball, Refugees U beat the Lobsters 73-36. The Refugees took advantage of many Lobster turnovers and strong shooting to improve their record to 3-0 and remain the only undefeated team in the league. The Refugees had a lead of 34-15 at the end of the first half and increased their lead as many players on the Lobsters were too tired to get back on defense. Bryce Dymond, Bruno Pellegrino, and Anand Patel led Refugees U. The Lobsters fell to 1-2 and are now in danger of missing the playoffs.

UTM beats Scarborough back-to-back

BY CHRIS CARRABS

In the span of three days last weck, Scarborough felt the wrath of both the men's and women's interfaculty football teams by almost identical scores.

On Sunday, UTM travelled to back campus in men's football, defeating Scarborough in a very exciting fashion 13-7. UTM opened up scoring in the first half as rookie Jon Brown made his first start as quarterback to complete a 60 yard touchdown pass. Scarborough battled back to tie it up at 6-6 before the half but UTM could not capitalize, leaving the score tied. After Scarborough kicked a single, Brown completed a beautiful pass to Yasser Firoozyan. Firoozyan also added the winning convert and a sparkling interception. Moments before the end of the game, Scarborough got to the 15 yard line, only to be snuffed out on three straight plays by the great zone defence of the Eagles. UTM improved to 3-1 and second place with the win.

On Wednesday, the women's football team faced Scarborough as well, and once again UTM displaycd their supremacy by winning 13-6. UTM started scoring in the first half, with Debbie Medeiros throwing to Amy Patterson for the first score with convert failing. The UTM defence was phenomenal in the first half as Scarborough failed to get even one first down. Patterson and Erin Laporte had interceptions as UTM smothered their opponents. But similar to the men's game, UTM failed to increase their lead and in the span of one drive, Scarborough moved the ball well, finishing off with a long touchdown pass to tie things at 6-6. The turning point came in the next sequence of plays as Scarborough was offside in their convert. On the first play after the kickoff, UTM used their favourite screen pass as Medeiros hooked up with Laporte to turn a five yard pass into a 60-70 yard touchdown. Laporte flew past her opponents to make it 12-6. After the convert UTM earned a 13-6 win, improving to 5-1 in the league. Next up for the women are the playoffs.

Softball: Brown Sugar moving on up

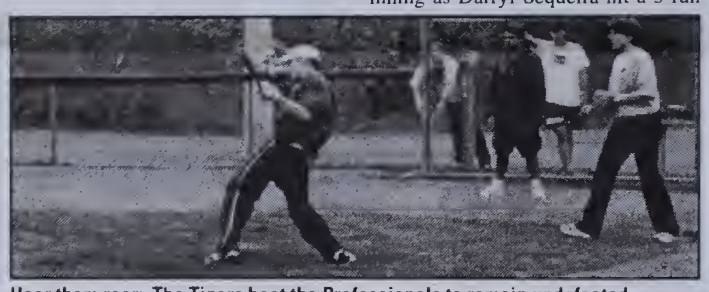
BY SACHIN BHANDARI

Brown Sugar scored an amazing 15 runs in three innings to beat Fitstop 15-12, moving Brown Sugar into sole possession of 2nd place in the intramural softball league standings. In the highest scoring game of the year, Brown Sugar began the game by scoring 4 runs in the 1st inning, including a two-run homerun by Aman Mundi.

Brown Sugar scored 4 more runs in the 2nd inning. The inning was highlighted by back-to-back homeruns from Kevin Ali and Roj Kop. Kop's homerun was a towering shot to centre field that was easily one of the longest homers of the year.

Fitstop rallied in the top of the 3rd inning as Darryl Sequeira hit a 3 run homerun that cleared three rows of cars in the parking lot. Fitstop did manage to take a 10-8 lead, but in the bottom of the inning Brown Sugar scored 7 more runs with the inning ending under the mercy rule. Kevin Ali ended the inning with his second homerun of the game – a 3-run shot – giving him 5 RBIs for the day.

Fitstop only managed to score 2 runs in the 4th inning, thus ending the game.



Hear them roar: The Tigers beat the Professionals to remain undefeated.

COED SOFTBALL STANDINGS

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	D	P
TIGERS	4	4	0	0	0	12
BROWN SUGAR	4	3	1	0	0	10
FITSTOP	4	2	2	0	0	8
PROFESSIONALS	4	2	2	0	0	8
PAPER	4	1	3	0	0	6

Tigers do professional job

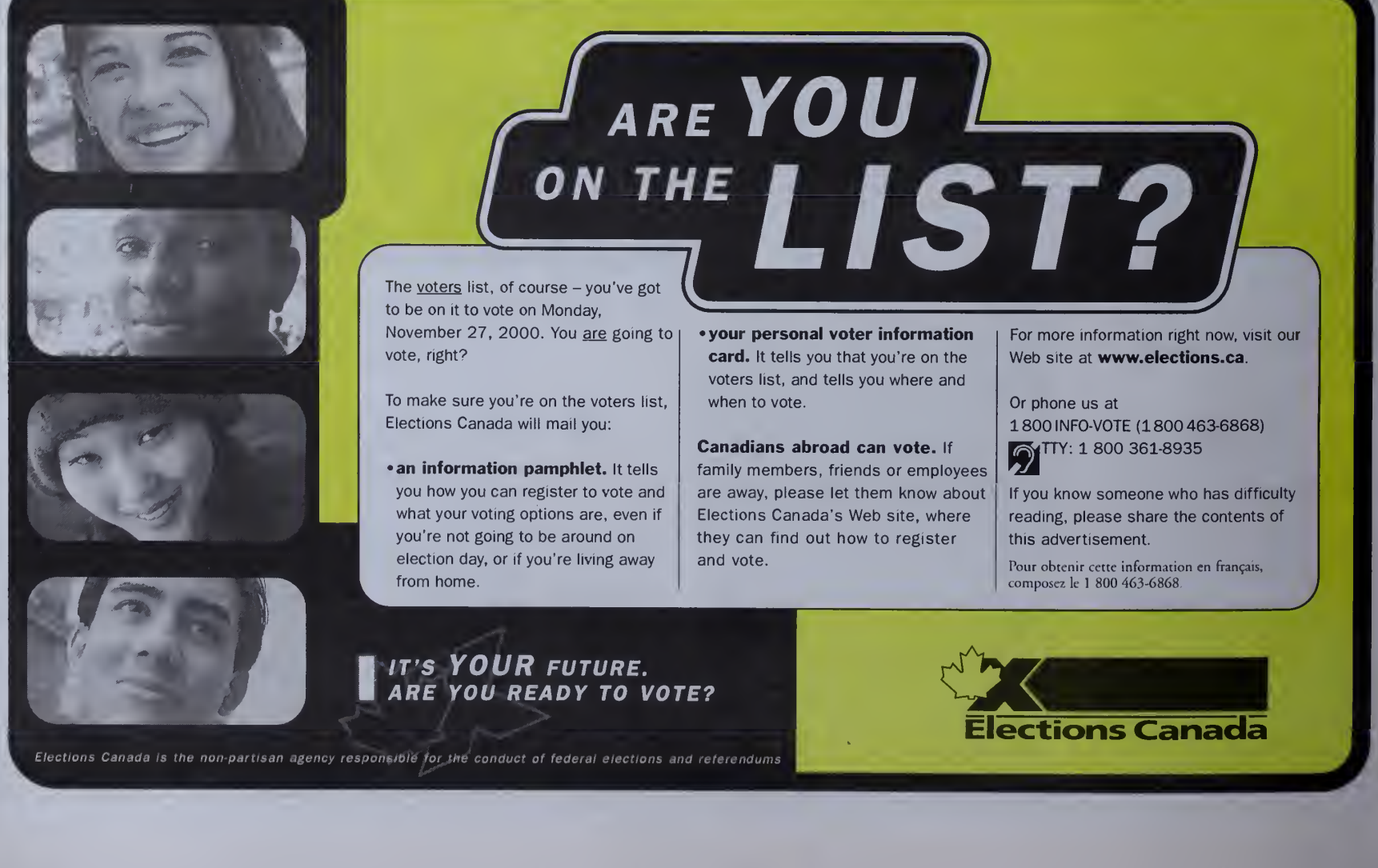
BY SACHIN BHANDARI

The Tigers improved to 4-0 as they scored six runs in the 1st inning en route to a 9-4 victory over the Professionals. Dave Jutzi, who showed great power and defense in the game, led the Tigers.

Four of the six Tigers' runs in the 1st inning came via a grand slam by Jutzi. The Professionals did manage to cut the deficit to four runs in the bottom of the inning, as Yasin Ozturk collected two RBI's, but The Prof's never got closer. The Professionals had a chance in the 3rd inning, with a runner on base, but Jutzi made a catch on a pop-fly in left field and then threw a perfect strike to 1st base to get the runner for the double play.

In the 4th inning, the Tigers added to their lead by scoring two more runs. The Professionals threatened to score in the bottom of the inning, but were again foiled by Jutzi, as he threw out Ozturk at home plate.

In the last inning, Vincent Cheung hit a RBI single to give the Tigers more insurance runs. The Professionals managed to get some offense via a homer from Jan Maw to make the score 9-4, but the Prof's couldn't catch up. The homerun just missed hitting a car that was looking for a parking spot.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